

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the Amendments submitted herewith. An Amendment and Reply submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) on April 14, 2006, has not yet been considered. A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment issued by the PTO on June 21, 2006, states that the Amendment submitted April 14, 2006 contains two claims numbered 48. This Amendment is submitted herewith to correct the inadvertent mis-numbering of the claims. In response to the Notices of Non-compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121), dated June 21, 2006 and October 12, 2006, Applicants submit herewith the above Amendment.

The claims that were considered by the PTO in the Office Action dated October 14, 2005 have been amended herewith. In this Amendment, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-16, 18, 36, and 39 without acquiescence to any rejection and without prejudice to prosecuting the cancelled subject matter in a related divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Applicants request entry of amended claims 17, 19, 30, 35, 40, and 42-45 and request entry of new claims 46-53.

Applicants therefore submit that the inadvertent numbering error has been corrected and that the claims meet the requirements for amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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